

## February 13, 2018 – Vine Middle School

### Group 1: Students

1. In what areas is Knox County Schools doing well?
  - Educating students
  - Administrators
  - Technology – computers, canvas
  - Good teachers who care
  - Improving discipline
2. In what areas does KCS need to improve?
  - Better planning for snow days
  - More instruction with hands-on activities and technology
  - Discipline – less time out of class (ISS/OSS)
  - Facilities
  - Student input
  - School Board visit for “real” classes – surprise visits
3. What would you like to see initiated in the future?
  - More transportation for transfer students
  - Improve diversity in schools
  - Respect and treat schools equally
  - More representation for the under-represented
  - More restorative practices
4. Is there anything else KCS needs to know?
  - Publicity matters – share about all schools – good news
  - KCS speak up for the schools, students, programs
  - Increase budget – equity
  - Improve food – more options

### Group-determined themes:

- Injustice across schools
- Equity of budgeting
- Hire and place effective teachers (want to teach, know their kids, varied for learning styles, relationships)
- Seek student input

### Group 2: Adults/Parents:

1. In what areas is Knox County Schools doing well?
  - Handling snow days
  - The school system is trying to listen to the community
  - Unique school system and offerings of magnet
  - Video archive of school board information and meetings
2. In what areas does Knox County Schools need to improve?
  - Involve the community not just in word but in deed
  - Quality teachers in District 1
  - Increase pay for teachers
  - More info from “Robo-call” method from school and district level

- Robo calls and other communications in multiple languages
- Teachers/staff need to reflect the diversity of KCS. Target teacher recruitment – Hispanic
- Better sub pay
- More teachers specialized in cultural competency and restorative justice
- Teachers equipped and trained to handle special programs
- District-wide emphasis on college and career starting in kindergarten – day 1 of entering KCS
- ACT supports that begin in middle and elementary schools
- Expanding MYP (middle years program) and IB in other schools
- Continuous review of discipline policy
- Offer more high school electives for students
- Provide stronger supports for teachers less than three years in high need schools
- More teachers – better student-teacher ratio
- Retaining quality teachers
- Teachers who want to be in the community they are teaching in
- Equity when it comes to building new schools
- Paying attention to all neighborhoods when building new schools. Change the fact that there are no new schools in District 1 and start investing in existing schools. Not equitable
- More voice from community – co-chairs of the DEO implementation task force
- Website not user-friendly, inconsistent on what is posted school to school
- Little to no communication about magnet programs or what is going on across the district. Answer seems to be “it’s on the website” – not positive
- Provide financial training curriculum for all students
- Semester on critical thinking

3. What would you like to see initiated in the future?

- To insure cultural competency is conducted across the district
- To insure restorative practice is conducted across the district and is done annually
- Concrete action plan with numbers, data and information on how the district plans to recruit and retain diverse workforce
- Clearly communicate when and how the summary of this strategic feedback will be available

Group-determined themes:

- Retaining and recruiting quality teachers of color (pay, training)
- Improve communication across district (frequency, culturally, user-friendly) – consistent
- College and career readiness starting day 1 in KCS (life readiness)
- Equity in facilities for new schools and existing improvements

**Group 3: Adults/Parents:**

1. In what areas is Knox County Schools doing well?

- Bus services going well
- School communication with families
- Superintendent interested in community input
- Increased focus on career high school
- Allowing schools to make independent decisions on school needs

2. In what areas does Knox County Schools need to improve?

- Better job handling sexual harassment, drug issues, suicide prevention
- Better treatment of LGBT students
- Quality teachers of color
- Equal access to all programs for all schools (i.e. IB feeder program). Ability to transfer
- ELL services – recruitment – smaller ratios
- Equitable distribution of funding
- Transparency in TAG/GT enrollment for students of color
- Revisiting current funding formula to make more equitable
- Improved nutrition – food is terrible! Availability of water bottles
- Intentional about encouraging healthy choices for nutrition
- More opportunities for community meetings
- A concerned parent group
- Better explanations/definitions for parents of what accountability measures are used for district targets (share with community, more transparency)

3. What would you like to see initiated in the future?

- Attention to issues of sexual harassment when they happen
- Quality teachers of color – and retention – bilingual, diversity of skills, etc.
- Allocation of tenured teachers (balance of tenured and new teachers)
- Diversity – exposure for students
- Diversity in administration and Central Office
- Long-range plan for population growth that is socioeconomically equitable (school for Maynard, Lonsdale, West View, Beaumont) – middle/feeder school
- New facilities for Vine – STEAM Academy – a premier school in Tennessee
- Mentorship program for teachers
- Identify teachers to teach in high-needs schools
- More robust vocational/trade program (include technology/programming certifications) – include highly skilled trades – partner with local businesses such as ORNL, Volkswagon, etc.
- Retaining and increasing funding for ancillary groups like Project GRAD
- District 1 parent group
- Parent group options for District 1 (i.e. beyond PTA)
- Budget allocation for technology at District level
- Whole neighborhoods zoned to an elementary school (specifically Park Ridge)
- Corporate sponsorship of schools
- Support for priority schools
- Update/simplify website – more family friendly. How does it be specific to individual child/family?
- Platform/process for sharing concerns about issues
- Emphasis on the resources matching the student make up. If we are getting back high needs student, we need teachers and resources to make sure we can meet the needs of school
- Request increase in the budget for KCS from local government – county commission (property tax)

Group-determined themes:

- Diversity/Equality
- Innovation

- Equity
- Communication
- Nutrition